

December 22, 1997

Mr. Bob Willging, District Supervisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS
P.O. Box 1064
Rhineland, WI 54501

RE: Beaver Dam Removal and impact on Crandon Mine Studies

Dear Mr. Willging:

I was recently copied on a letter dated December 9, 1997 from Sokaogon Chippewa Community Tribal Chairman Arlyn Ackley, Sr. to Mr. Larry Morrin, Acting Area Director of the Minneapolis Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the removal of beaver dams on creeks above Rice Lake.

I am writing this letter because EPA is also interested in receiving the information that has been requested by the Tribe. As mentioned in the letter, EPA is conducting a study regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Crandon Mine on the Swamp and Pickerel Creek watersheds. EPA believes that even though the proposed mine site is not located within the Tribal Reservation's exterior boundaries, its' impacts may well be seen on Trust lands and to Tribal resources.

I hope that your office can work with us on this issue in the spirit of the 1994 Presidential Memorandum (Copy enclosed) regarding Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments which states that, "(e) Each executive department and agency shall work cooperatively with other Federal departments and agencies to enlist their interest and support in cooperative efforts, where appropriate, to accomplish the goals of this memorandum." The information sought, as highlighted in and attached to the December 9 letter referenced above, will assist the federal biologists and others in developing biological monitoring needs and assessments for the project and will assist the federal government in fulfilling their tribal trust responsibilities.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 312-886-7252. My mailing address is as follows:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd., WS-15J
Chicago, IL 60604
Attn: Dan Cozza

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Cozza, Crandon Mine Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

cc: H. Nelson, BIA
M. Kuester, BIA
L. Morrin, BIA
R. Pillsbury, Mole Lake
J. Griffin, Mole Lake
A. Ackley, Mole Lake
C. Hauger, COE
D. Ballman, COE
J. Trick, FWS